

The bill, HR5323, would authorize citizenship ceremonies in July each year with the trimmings of an all-American patriotic 4th of July celebration. The ceiling on each ceremony would be \$5,000, and designated recipients would be public or private community based organizations who organize the event. The funds would be made available through the Department of Homeland Security which now is the parent department for the renamed Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) agency. DHS would select sites based on number of naturalization applications and local community support.

CIS reports that more than 28,000 new citizens will be sworn in at 133 citizenship ceremonies around the country. HR 5323 provides a level of recognition of those immigrants who have played by the rules and been through the rigorous immigration screening process. The purpose of the celebration ceremonies is to acknowledge the many legal immigrants who have earned their citizenship after years of waiting, high fees, learning English, and a passing grade on a citizenship test. The culmination of this all is taking the Oath of Citizenship.

Every year in Farr's congressional district around the 4th of July, Rep. Farr hosts a Citizenship Ceremony. This past year, 120 immigrants from China, Fiji Island, Algeria, Canada and other countries took their Oath, and sang the National Anthem and America the Beautiful in a community wide celebration. This was the 11th annual such ceremony Farr has sponsored.

The bill now goes on to the Senate for action.